

**CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FRIDAY JUNE 6, 2014  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Members present:**

Jerry Foxhoven, Jake Carmi, Wendy Rickman, George Belitsos, Rep. Marti Anderson, Lori Rinehart (representing Gail Barber), Julie Heiderscheit (phone), Anne Gruenwald (phone), Nancy Magnall (phone).

**Members absent:**

Chris Secrist, Edwin Daye, Julie Mann Phillips, Sen. Amy Sinclair, Ron Stehl, Sen. Amanda Ragan, Rep. Rob Taylor, Charles Palmer, Dave Zimmerman, Gail Barber, Denise Moore, Susan Walkup

**Visitors present:**

Don Burgmaier, Iowa Family Rights  
John Harvey, Iowa Family Rights

Meeting called to order 1:06 pm

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes for the April 11, 2014 meeting stand approved as written.

**Bills passed & signed that effect DHS and other news:**

Wendy gave a brief over view of the bills that effected DHS.

- There were two new groups proposed by the legislature to work with DHS on several issues. The first was a group interested in evaluating the need to expand foster care services to age twenty one. The Governor vetoed this group. The second group is a Legislative Services Agency (LSA) facilitated group which was formed to evaluate several child welfare issues. If you would be interested in being a part of this group, please let Lori VandeWall know at [lvandew@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:lvandew@dhs.state.ia.us) or 515-281-4174. We will share the list with LSA staff.
- Child welfare group care providers will receive a modest increase in an effort to rebase group care categories and align payment rates for providers.
- The AMP youth experienced a lot of legislative success this year with the passage of the human trafficking bill. Another AMP sponsored bill that passed

focuses on continuity of learning for children in foster care. Both were signed by the Governor.

- Lastly, DHS has a new web site, this web site is geared more toward the public please take a look it is located at <http://dhs.iowa.gov/> .

### **Report on Children's Justice Activities:**

Lori Rinehart gave an update on Children's Justice Activities, August 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> there will be a training with Stephanie Covington. This will be held at Prairie Meadows, if you would like to attend go to the I Learn website and register.

September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> they will hold an attorneys summit. All of the Lawyers that go to juvenile court must have 3 hrs. of training in Juvenile Justice.

To sign up or to learn more about the Juvenile Justice sponsored trainings go to the <http://ilearn.iowa.courts.gov> website.

### **Differential Response Update (DR):**

Wendy's shared that the department is about to release the first set of data regarding differential response. This initial report will be available mid-June on the DHS website. <http://dhs.iowa.gov/>. Thus far, the actual flow of cases in the new system is in line with projections established prior to implementation. More detail will be available when the report is posted.

The next set of data for DR will come out in September, and due to the fact that we will have more information on the families by that time, the next report will include more outcome data than in the initial report.

Rep. Marti Anderson asked how this has affected the Administrative Law Judges (ALJ's). Wendy said on the family side there are no appeals, on the child abuse assessment side, Wendy was not sure yet how the appeals will be, but this will be watched.

George asked Wendy what she predicted regarding future changes in the big picture for other services, such as PMIC's, family foster care, and group care. Wendy replied as Iowa remains in a position of high placement rates per thousand by county for children, it is anticipated practice will continue to focus on community based answers for youth and less emphasis on congregate care facilities.

**Progress on Children's Cabinet:**

Jerry shared that they will be going to the DHS council and ask them to go to the legislature to have CWAC removed from the legislation, which created us.

Jerry suggested that if you want to be on the Child welfare services group, remember to let Lori know and when they ask for suggestions, Wendy will let them know who would like to be part of the membership.

At this time the children's cabinet is still a possibility.

**Public Comment:**

Don Burgmaier, Iowa Family Rights, would like to have a process of assessing problems with DHS.

**Future Meeting Dates:**

Our next meeting will be held September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 held in the Clinic Library at the Drake Legal Clinic from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Lori VandeWall  
Recording Secretary